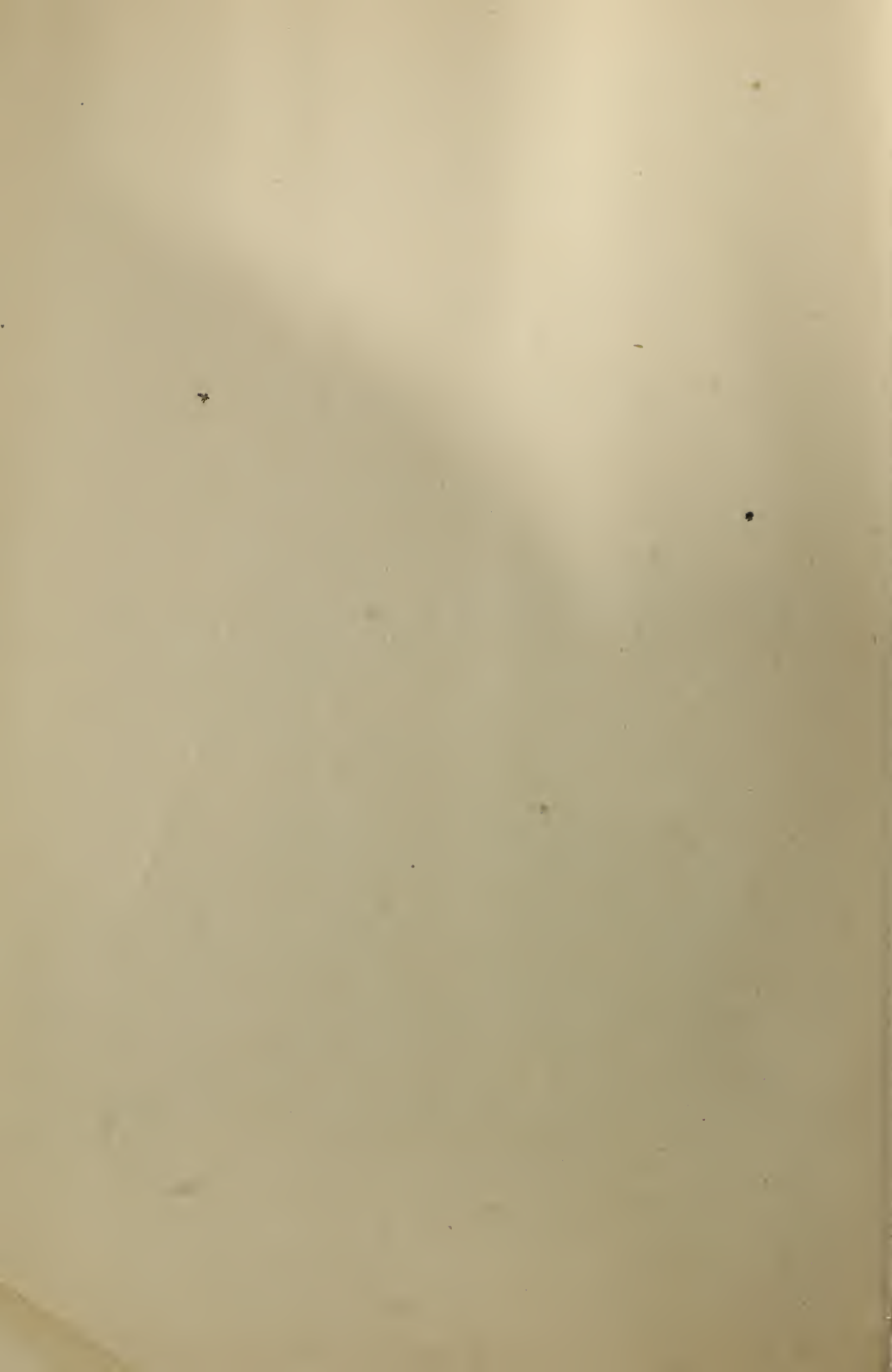


ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
Town of Hamilton,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1879.

SALEM:
PRESS OF THE ESSEX COUNTY MERCURY.
1879.



REPORT.

The School Committee present the following Report of the condition and progress of the schools for the past year :—

The amount appropriated by the Town for their support, in March, 1878, was.....		\$1,000 00
Amount received from Mass. School Fund.....	216 26	
Amount received from Dog Licenses.....	68 36	
		<hr/>
		\$1,284 62

This has been expended as follows :—

Paid to teachers.....	\$1,075 50	
Paid for fuel.....	45 50	
Paid for building fires.....	18 00—	\$1,139 00
		<hr/>
Leaving a balance of.....		\$145 62

The statistics of the several schools are as follows :—

NORTH SCHOOL.

Summer Term.—Teacher, Miss JENNIE A. BROWN.

Length of term.....	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ months.
Wages of teacher per month	\$25
Whole number of scholars	48
Average attendance	35 $\frac{2}{3}$

Perfect in attendance, 3—Nellie F. Fillebrown. Mary E. Andrews, Nettie F. Andrews.

Children under five years of age, 0 ; over fifteen years of age, 2.

At the commencement of this school, it was apparent that Miss Brown's ideas of discipline and method of instruction were such as to give good results, and at the close of the term her success was highly creditable to her efforts.

This school exhibited a marked degree of thoroughness in the recitations, and gave evidence of the teacher's success as a disciplinarian.

Winter Term.—Teacher, Mr. EDSON W. WHITE, of Dartmouth College.

Length of term.....	3 months.
Wages of teacher per month.....	\$45
Whole number of scholars....	49
Average attendance.....	37.5

Number of scholars under five years of age, 0 ; over fifteen years of age, 10. Perfect in attendance, 0.

Mr. White, coming as he did an entire stranger, and in the largest school in town, succeeded remarkably well in early gaining the confidence of his pupils, and the result of his labors was highly satisfactory. At the closing examination, the exercises gave evidence of a large amount of labor performed. The recitations were prompt, exhibiting a degree of advancement very creditable to the pupils, as well as to the teacher.

SOUTH SCHOOL.

Summer Term.—Teacher, Miss SOPHIA F. LOVERING.

Length of term.....	5½ months.
Wages of teacher per month	\$26.
Whole number of scholars.....	30
Average attendance.....	24

Number of scholars under five years of age, 0 ; over fifteen years of age, 1.

Perfect in attendance, 2—Hattie G. Allen, and Mary F. Lovering

Miss Lovering is so well known to our people as a teacher, having had charge of this School for several successive seasons, that we feel it is not necessary to say anything more than that her labors were crowned with success. At the closing examination the pupils exhibited a degree of advancement highly creditable to their determination to profit by the advantages given them by the town.

Winter Term.—Teacher, C. A. KIBLING, of Dartmouth College.

Length of term.....	3 months.
Wages of teacher per month	\$45
Whole number of scholars... ..	28
Average attendance.....	21

Number of scholars under five years of age, 0; over fifteen years of age 5. Perfect in attendance, 0.

Mr. Kibling's labors in this school were very satisfactory; his endeavor to secure the confidence of his pupils was early developed, and his devotion to their interests was apparent at the closing examination. The recitations were prompt, giving evidence of a very commendable degree of advancement, showing a great amount of labor on the part of the teacher, and diligence of the scholars.

EAST SCHOOL.

Summer Term.—Teacher, Miss LAURA S. WOODBURY.

Length of term..	5½ months.
Wages of teacher per month	\$26.
Whole number of scholars	29
Average attendance	22

Perfect in attendance, 5—Fannie P. Knowlton, Fannie M. Day, George E. Day, Minnette R. Trowt, Willie J. Channel.

Number of scholars under five years of age, 0; over fifteen years of age, 2.

Miss Woodbury, who has had charge of this school for

several successive seasons, brought with her that experience which enabled her to begin early with her labors, and the advantages arising from such experience were noticeable at the first visit of the Committee; and at the closing examination the recitations gave evidence of faithfulness on the part of the teacher and industry on the part of the scholars.

Winter Term.—Teacher, FRANK H. PEASE, Bowdoin College.

Length of term	3 months.
Wages of teacher per month	\$45.
Whole number of scholars	31
Average attendance	29 $\frac{2}{5}$

Number of scholars under five years of age, 0; over fifteen years of age, 4.

Perfect in attendance, 10—Sadie B. Butler, Jessie F. Doty, Fannie M. Day, Fannie P. Knowlton, Nettie R. Trowt, Forest L. Knowlton, John C. Butler, Fred. H. Ayers, Howard H. Trowt, Aliston Butler.

Mr. Pease commenced his work in this school with a zeal worthy the vocation, securing at an early day the confidence of his pupils, and was, by his untiring efforts, very successful. At the closing examination, the exercises were prompt and energetic, giving evidence of good advancement in all their studies, satisfying the Committee that the teacher had been thorough in his labors, with good results to the scholars. The compositions, presented in the form of a Gazette, exhibited a degree of talent rarely equalled by pupils of our common schools.

WEST SCHOOL.

Summer Term.—Teacher, Miss ADDIE DODGE.

Length of term	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ months.
Wages of teacher per month	\$25.
Whole number of scholars	30
Average attendance	16

Number of scholars under five years of age, 1; over fifteen years of age, 0. Perfect in attendance, 1—Martha E. Dodge.

Miss Dodge, having charge of this school, although an inexperienced teacher, brought with her the advantages of a Normal School instruction, and soon had her pupils in good training, and was very successful in her labors. At the closing examination, this school exhibited a marked degree of thoroughness in the various exercises. The order of the school was very good.

Winter Term.—Teacher, GEORGE R. STONE.

Length of term 3 months.

Wages of teacher per month \$45.

Whole number of scholars 8

Average attendance $5\frac{2}{3}$

Number of scholars under five years of age, 0; over fifteen years of age, 2. Perfect in attendance, 0.

This school was so small, and the attendance of the pupils so irregular, that your Committee can have but little to say as to the result of the labors of the teacher. The weather at the closing examination was such as to render it impossible for small scholars to be present, only one having courage to brave the storm. But we have full confidence in Mr. Stone's ability to instruct; and what we saw of the school it was satisfactory.

In reviewing the history of our schools for the past year, your Committee are pleased to report a degree of improvement equal to our expectations. The teachers for the summer term were all natives and residents of the town, and without exception, performed their labors with much credit to themselves and to the satisfaction of the Committee.

For the winter term, your Committee in a great measure labor under the disadvantage of selecting teachers by correspondence; and at the beginning of the year we adopted a rule not to employ any but experienced teachers, with good recommendations, both as to their moral character and fitness as teachers; and we were fortunate enough to succeed in se-

curing faithful and efficient ones, gentlemen of good character, earnest in their endeavors in this department of labor, securing the confidence of their pupils, and untiring in their efforts to instruct, and discharging all their duties satisfactorily.

It is much to be regretted that the necessity exists for exchanging teachers nearly every term of our winter schools, as much valuable time is lost in studying the dispositions of the pupils and in the arrangement of classes.

The school houses in the several districts need more or less of repairs. The North wants a thorough cleansing, with some repairs, and a coat of paint on the outside; also its seating capacity is only for forty scholars, while its register shows a membership of forty-nine. The South wants some grading of the grounds around it, and cleansing and paint inside. The East is in good condition, but as a matter of economy we would recommend a coat of paint on the outside; the woodshed attached to this house has never been painted. The West needs a thorough renovating and some repairs.

Your Committee take this opportunity to suggest to the inhabitants of the several districts to volunteer to set out shade trees in their school-yards. We would also recommend an addition to the school rooms of wall maps, charts, or some other apparatus, to not only adorn the walls, but to make instruction more easy, and to give the rooms a more cheerful appearance.

Your Committee have made no change in the text books used in the schools, but have placed upon the desk in each house Webster's large dictionary.

Irregular attendance is one of the greatest hindrances to the progress of our schools, and we regret exceedingly to be compelled from duty to bring the subject again to the notice of the parents. The magnitude of the evil is almost beyond computation. It is discouraging to the teacher, injurious to the school, and of incalculable injury to the scholar.

Your Committee are of the opinion that the principal, if

not the only remedy for this evil, lies in the person having charge of the absentee, and to such we would say, do not allow children under your charge to absent themselves from school. Let nothing come between your child and the school room, except what is unavoidable. Let no idle tales, personal feelings, or pecuniary considerations, deprive your child of the benefit of a common school instruction, so amply provided for by the town.

The small number of scholars attending the West School is mainly caused by the attendance of twelve scholars from this district at a school recently established by the town of Ipswich, near the factory, and the School Committee of that town has asked for remuneration for the instruction of the said scholars. But as no representation has ever been made to us of their inability to attend school in their own district, ample provision having been made for them there, your Committee did not feel justified in allowing the same. There was one scholar in the East District, who, on account of her age and health, was unable to attend school there, but could and did go to Wenham Neck, we allowing her to do so, approving of their bill, which to us seemed reasonable and just. We have also one scholar in the North School belonging to Ipswich, for whom no compensation has ever been asked.

Education being the corner stone of the arch upon which rests our institutions, and Christianity the key-stone of that arch, we have made it the imperative duty of every teacher to have a daily reading in the Bible, with such other devotional exercises as he or she may adopt.

Hoping that if any of these suggestions meet your approval, they will be adopted, we respectfully submit our report.

GEORGE NORRIS, OSCAR F. WHIPPLE, JOSEPH P. LOVERING,	}	Committee.
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Hamilton, March, 1879.

